

Appl. No. 09/998,396
Amdt. dated 12/17/2004
Reply to Office Action of 09/22/2004

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft® Word®. Claims 2, 5, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft® Word®.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 in order to better claim the invention. New claims 13 - 20 have been added for consideration. For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As stated in the SPECIFICATION, when a user desires to have a document reviewed over the Internet, the user has to post the document on a Web site. Then, the user has to send a note, electronic or otherwise, to the prospective reviewers detailing the address of the Web site where the document is posted. If the user wishes to have particular reviewers reviewing particular topics or sections of the document, the user has to so indicate in the note. Alternatively, the user may specify in the document itself what section each reviewer is to review.

Sometimes, instead of specifying in the document itself what section each reviewer is to review, the user creates as many copies of the document as there are different reviewers reviewing different sections. Each

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copy of the document is posted at a different Web site. The user then ensures that sections of a copy to be reviewed by a reviewer or reviewers blink when the copy is accessed indicating to the reviewer that only those sections need to be reviewed. This can be a rather daunting task. Imagine having fifty different sections to be reviewed. The user then has to make fifty copies, posting each copy at a different Web site and having the appropriate section blink when the document is accessed. The present invention provides a method of highlighting parts of a Web document based on an intended reader.

According to the teachings of the invention, when a document that has at least one section to be highlighted based on an intended reader, the document is displayed with a button. The button is associated with the section an indicated the intended user. When the button is asserted, the section becomes highlighted.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

1. A method of displaying a document having at least one section that is to be highlighted based on an intended user comprising the steps of:

displaying the document;

displaying at least one button with the document, the at least one button being associated with the at least one section of the document and indicating the intended user; and

highlighting the at least one section of the document when the at least one button is asserted. (Emphasis added.)

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The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft® Word®. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As far as Applicants are aware, Microsoft® Word® does not teach, show or suggest a method of ***highlighting a section of a document by displaying a button with the document that indicates a user for which the section is to be highlighted and of highlighting the section when the button is asserted*** as claimed.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 1 and its dependent claims should be allowable. Independent Claims 4, 7 and 10 and their respective dependent claims, which all incorporate the above-emboldened-italicized limitations shown in the reproduced Claim 1 above, should be allowable as well. Hence, Applicants once more respectfully request reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the Application.

Respectfully submitted,
Keohane et. al.

By: 

Volel Emile
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,969
(512) 306-7969

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